

Standard Detail & Specifications

Topsoiling

Construction Notes:

1. Site Preparation (Where Topsoil is to be added)

Note: When topsoiling, maintain needed erosion and sediment control practices such as diversions, grade stabilization structures, berms, dikes, waterways and sediment basins.

- a. Grading - Grades on the areas to be topsoiled which have been previously established shall be maintained.
- b. Liming - Where the topsoil is either highly acid or composed of heavy clays, ground limestone shall be spread at the rate of 4-8 tons/acre (200-400 pounds per 1,000 square feet). Lime shall be distributed uniformly over designated areas and worked into the soil in conjunction with tillage operations as described in the following procedures.
- c. Tilling - After the areas to be topsoiled have been brought to grade, and immediately prior to dumping and spreading the topsoil, the subgrade shall be loosened by discing or by scarifying to a depth of a least 3 inches to permit bonding of the topsoil to the subsoil. Pack by passing a bulldozer up and down over the entire surface area of the slope to create horizontal erosion check slots to prevent topsoil from sliding down the slope.

2. Topsoil Material and Application

Note: Topsoil salvaged from the existing site may often be used but it should meet the same standards as set forth in these specifications. The depth of topsoil to be salvaged shall be no more than the depth described as a representative profile for that particular soil type as described in the soil survey published by USDA-SCS in cooperation with Delaware Agricultural Experimental Station.

Source: USDA - NRCS	Symbol:	Detail No. DE-ESC-3.4.1 Sheet 1 of 2 Effective July 2023
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Construction Notes (cont.)

- a. Materials - Topsoil shall be a loam, sandy loam, clay loam, silt loam, sandy clay loam, loamy sand or other soil as approved by an agronomist or soil scientist. It shall not have a mixture of contrasting textured subsoil and contain no more than 5 percent by volume of cinders, stones, slag, coarse fragment, gravel, sticks, roots, trash or other extraneous materials larger than 1-1/2 inches in diameter. Topsoil must be free of plants or plant parts of bermudagrass, quackgrass, Johnsongrass, nutsedge, poison ivy, thistles, or others as specified. All topsoil shall be tested by a reputable laboratory for organic matter content, pH and soluble salts. A pH of 6.0 to 7.5 and an organic content of not less than 1.5 percent by weight is required. If pH value is less than 6.0 lime shall be applied and incorporated with the topsoil to adjust the pH to 6.5 or higher. Topsoil containing soluble salts greater than 500 parts per million shall not be used.

Note: No sod or seed shall be placed on soil which has been treated with soil sterilant or chemicals used for weed control until sufficient time has elapsed to permit dissipation of toxic materials.

- b. Grading - The topsoil shall be uniformly distributed and compacted to a minimum of four (4) inches. Spreading shall be performed in such a manner that sodding or seeding can proceed with a minimum of additional soil preparation and tillage. Any irregularities in the surface resulting from topsoiling or other operations shall be corrected in order to prevent the formation of depressions or water pockets. Topsoil shall not be placed while in a frozen or muddy condition, when the subgrade is excessively wet, or in a condition that may otherwise be detrimental to proper grading and seedbed preparation.

Note: Topsoil substitutes or amendments as approved by a qualified agronomist or soil scientist, may be used in lieu of natural topsoil. Compost material used to improve the percentage of organic matter shall be provided by a certified supplier.

Compost amendments that are intended to meet specific post-construction stormwater management goals shall further meet the requirements of **Appendix 3.06.2 Post Construction Stormwater Management BMP Standards and Specifications, Section 14.0 Soil Amendments.**

Source: USDA - NRCS	Symbol:	Detail No. DE-ESC-3.4.1 Sheet 2 of 2 Effective July 2023
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